

## Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

**September 12 –15, 2007**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

### Purpose

Beginning farmers and those who farm small acreages cope with additional challenges, compared with established, conventional farmers. America's small farms make up 92.4 percent of all farms in the U.S., but represent only 23.9 percent of the value of total agricultural production. To ensure the health of local, regional, and national food systems and the character of rural America, we need to provide the resources and tools beginning and small-scale farmers need to develop and maintain their operations.

The goal of this conference is to promote the success and viability of beginning and small farmers and ranchers. This conference will provide a forum to exchange ideas to identify, develop, and promote successful strategies that small and beginning farmers and ranchers can utilize to be sustainable in their local community and the larger agricultural, and global, economy.

Conference participants will receive:

- Information on USDA programs—including the Farm Bill, university research and development, and innovative techniques in the agriculture industry.
- Workshop sessions and tours to provide informative strategies on selecting appropriate enterprises, acquiring and retaining land, identifying financial resources and management strategies, discovering marketing options, utilizing alternative energy sources, and other issues that contribute to the success of small farms and beginning farmers and ranchers.
- Information to assist small farmers, rural communities, and beginning farmers and ranchers to survive and thrive in today's global economy.

*Detailed information and registration packet can be viewed and downloaded at: [http://www.growingpower.org/rma\\_conference.htm](http://www.growingpower.org/rma_conference.htm)*

### Conference Hotel

Hilton Milwaukee City Center  
509 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisc.  
1-800-Hiltons or 414-271-7250  
[www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/mkemhbf\\_rmssf/index.jhtml](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/mkemhbf_rmssf/index.jhtml)

Overnight parking is available at the hotel for \$20. Daily parking at the hotel is \$8./1st 30 minutes & \$1. each additional 30 minutes, up to \$20.. Daily parking is also available across the street from the hotel on 5th Street in an uncovered lot for \$6.—\$10. per day.\*

### Media Contact Information

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### Conference Schedule

#### *Wednesday, Sept. 12*

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Welcome & Opening
	Remarks
	Keynote Address:
	Winona LaDuke, White
	Earth Land Recovery
	Project
3 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
3 – 5 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
6:30 p.m.	Reception

#### *Thursday, Sept. 13*

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tours

### *Friday, Sept. 14*

8:30 a.m. Keynote Address:  
Eldon Gould, Risk  
Management Agency  
Keynote Address:  
Chuck Hassebrook,  
Center for Rural Affairs  
10:30 – Noon Breakout Sessions  
Noon Lunch  
1:30 – 5 p.m. Breakout Sessions

### *Saturday, Sept. 15*

8:30 – 10 a.m. Breakout Sessions  
10:30 – Noon Closing Speaker

### **Conference Tracks\***

Alternative Marketing  
Beginning Farmers  
Current Issues  
Energy and Renewable Fuels  
Financial Management  
USDA Programs  
Urban Agriculture

\*USDA does not warrant or promote these sources over others that may be suitable.

### **Tours**

#### **Growing Power Workshop**

*Subjects:* Aquaponics, Beekeeping,  
Living Biological Worm Systems,  
Vermiculture, Composting, Year-round  
Greenhouse Production

#### **Angelic Organics Learning Center**

#### **Chicago Tour**

*Locations Visited:* The Art on the  
Farm, Jackson Park, and The Chicago  
Avenue Community Garden  
Partnership at Cabrini Green

#### **Local Farms Tour**

*Locations Visited:* Growing Power's  
Rural Farm, Krusen Grass Farms, R-  
Farm

#### **Madison Tour**

*Locations Visited:* Troy Gardens, South  
Madison Farmers Market, Carandale  
Farm

#### **Michael Fields Agricultural Institute**

*Locations Visited:* The Quinney Farm

#### **Milwaukee Garden and Market Tour**

*Locations Visited:* Fondy Food Center,  
Fondy Farmers Market, Taste the  
Season, Girls Chef Academy,  
GrowRight, Milwaukee Public Market,  
Walnut Way Garden

#### **Milwaukee Tour**

*Locations Visited:* America's Black  
Holocaust Museum, various historical  
sites

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